

## Sustainability Scholars Program, Summer 2025

### BC Hydro Funding Eligibility

BC Hydro's funding support for Sustainability Scholars assists eligible local governments and NGOs to deliver scalable, high-impact projects that accelerate the uptake of energy efficiency and low-carbon electrification. Projects can include such things as undertaking jurisdictional research, designing stakeholder engagement processes, performance management tracking and organization, case studies or best practices guides.

Funding covers the cost of a UBC Sustainability Scholar to work on a 250-hour project (value \$9925).

**To be eligible for BC Hydro funding, projects should focus on one or more of the following areas.**

#### **Building sector:**

- Support scalable energy efficiency upgrades within the community, including removing barriers to energy retrofits, demand response opportunities, and re-/retro-commissioning.
- Explore load management options for buildings, including for customers deploying heat pumps, EVs, battery storage, and solar panel integration.
- Implement recommendations from the *Local Government [Low Carbon Building Policy Toolkit](#)* to remove barriers to energy efficient building design, permitting processes, heat pump installations.
- Advance training, education, professional development, and policies that support smart system design, right-sizing mechanical systems, energy management systems, and service connection sizes (e.g. [The Homeowner's Guide to Electrical Load Management](#)).
- Support existing building benchmarking (i.e., whole building energy & carbon reporting) and building performance standards.
- Explore adoption opportunities for new construction commissioning standards (e.g. [CSA Z5000](#)) in local government bylaws and industry training and education events.
- Promote commissioning standards for existing buildings (e.g. [CSA Z5001:20 | Product | CSA Group](#)) through industry training and education events.
- Support Continued Professional Development programs, licensing programs, or other recognition programs to support energy efficient buildings.

#### **Transportation sector**

- Support implementation of EV-Ready designs, including EV energy management systems, for new buildings based on recommendations from [EV-Ready Requirements for New Buildings: A Best Practice Guide for BC Local Governments](#)

- Improve access to charging infrastructure in existing buildings and other private property (e.g., bylaws, curbside charging, business license requirements, partnerships).
- Advance energy efficiency of electrified transportation (e.g. vehicles requirements, micro-mobility bylaws, e-driver efficiency training).
- Remove barriers for electrification of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, marine transportation, shared mobility, and construction sites.
- Advance training, education and policies for property managers, drivers/operators, mechanics, dealers, and other key market players that support electric vehicles.
- For more ideas and details on potential transportation opportunities, see recommendations from Metro Vancouver's [Keeping it Current: Guidance for Collaborative Deployment of EV Charging in Metro Vancouver.](#)

### **Electrical connections & infrastructure development**

- Implement municipal process changes to support electrical connections using recommendations from the [Small-scale, multi-unit housing guide for local governments](#) (e.g. allow overhead connections, accept code minimum for minimum separation between underground services, allow transformers on public property if needed, provide early notification to BC Hydro).
- Remove barriers to deployment of BC Hydro electrical infrastructure within local governments (e.g. align BC Hydro construction projects with municipal infrastructure; [co-tender projects](#); streamline local government design and approvals processes).

**Please direct inquiries about this funding offer to:**

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